

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Cotton: The country's total cotton industry comprises more than 300,000 spindles (Banc a broches) under normal conditions. In order to keep this production employed and meet the needs of the country, Bulgaria needs more than 25,000 tons of cotton per year. The latest official pronouncements on the subject and the opinion of experts, however, lead to the conclusion that only about 10,000 tons will be forthcoming in the current year. This figure includes the small amount of locally produced cotton, which is grown near the Turkish border. Under the trade treaty which was signed this year with the Russians, the USSR will supply Bulgaria with 11,000 tons of cotton for manufacture into yarn and cloth. Russian cotton gives about 15 percent waste, and out of the 11,000 tons covered by the treaty, only about 9,700 tons will therefore be effectively available. The Russians are also to give Bulgaria 6,000 tons of cotton to be spun into yarn for their own account and then re-exported. If this figure is also taken into account, the cotton industry will be working at about 55-60 percent of capacity during the current year, and only going half-way towards meeting the country's requirements.
2. Wool: The woolen industry's position is worse. The estimated crop of wool is about five million kilograms and imports are practically nil. With this amount of wool, it will be possible to produce 600,000 meters of pure woolen fabric for the needs of the army and two and one-half to three million meters with a 35-50 percent mixture of rags, for the population. The minimum needs of the population are (six million meters, and production in normal times was twelve million meters.) The woolen industry therefore has raw materials for only 25 percent of its capacity.
3. Heavy Industry: Heavy industrial production in Bulgaria is still, practically speaking, nil. The new heavy industry center at Dimitrograd is a center only in name, and nothing has come out of it yet. The two most important iron and steel factories are the Veriga factory at Burgas and the Mulhaupt factory at Ruse. These factories are mainly concerned with producing agricultural implements.
4. Most other industries are in the same state. The lowest in the scale is the leather industry, and the industry working most nearly to capacity is the small iron industry, which is being supplied by imports from Russia.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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